

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on November 5, 2004.

Claims 1, 5, and 12 are amended; as a result, claims 1-17 are now pending in this application. Applicants do not believe that the amendments necessitate a new search. Moreover, the amendments are done to place the present application in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the amendments.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement and a 1449 Form on August 28, 2001. Applicants respectfully request that an initialed copy of the 1449 Form be returned to Applicants' Representatives to indicate that the cited reference has been considered by the Examiner. A copy of the previously-submitted 1449 Form is included with this response.

Applicants note that it appears that the Examiner did consider this since that 1449 was returned and signed; it is the 1449 with a single U.S. patent reference, namely U.S. Patent No. 6,101,500 (To-Choi Lau). Therefore, it appears to Applicants that this has already been considered; however, Applicants respectfully request that this 1449 be initialed next to the Lau reference and returned with the next action from the Examiner for completeness of the record.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bennett et al. (U.S. 5,146,344). It is of course fundamental that in order to sustain an anticipation rejection that each and every element or step in the rejected claims must be taught or suggested in the cited reference. Here, Bennett fails to teach or suggest account support services which are external to and separate from a printer agent and a printer, which is now positively recited in Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 5, and 12.

In the previous response to the First Office Action, the Applicants pointed out to the Examiner that Bennett failed to teach the binding of accounting support services to a printer agent. This aspect was positively recited in Applicants independent claims and brought to the

attention of the Examiner. It was further pointed out that the accounting features of Bennett were prefabricated within the system controller 7. Bennett, col. 6, lines 7-15.

Additionally, Applicants pointed out that “binding” is conventionally understood as a dynamic resolution. Furthermore, Applicants’ original filed specification elaborated this point at great lengths and provided examples of a dynamic binding, such as Remote Procedure Call (RPC) techniques. See the original Specification at pages 5-6 and at pages 9-13.

With the present action, the Examiner has specifically informed the Applicants that the Examiner had broadly interpreted the system controller disclosed and taught in Bennett to be or to cover the Applicants’ printer agent. In view of this interpretation, it is clear any accounting services present in Bennett are part of the same entity, namely the system controller. This also comports with the teachings and disclosure of Bennett. Arguably, with this interpretation, the dynamic resolution or binding may be potentially achieved in Bennett because the accounting services and system controller are part of the same entity (system controller). However, this interpretation also confirms Applicants’ assertion that the accounting services in Bennett are static, preset, and prefabricated in the system controller, because they must pre-exist within the system controller.

In response to this interpretation, the Applicants have amended the independent claims to positively recite that the “accounting support services are external to and separate from the printer agent and the printer.” It should now be clear to the Examiner, how Applicants’ invention differs from the Bennett teachings. Accounting support services may be dynamically bound to a printer via the API; these accounting support services are not part of the printer agent and are not prefabricated within the printer or the printer agent. Thus, dynamic and new accounting support services may be used to dynamically extend and integrate with the pre-existing functionality of print drivers. These techniques cannot be achieved with the teachings of Bennett, because the accounting features of Bennett are predetermined and prefabricated within the system controller. Essentially, the accounting features of Bennett are part of and integral to the system controller.

The present amendments distinguish over Bennett, because in Bennett there is no teaching where accounting support services are external to and separate from the system controller. In fact, the Bennett reference specifically teaches the opposite, which is that

accounting features are implemented within and part of the system controller. Moreover, the amendments now clearly highlight the Applicants' original assertion that Bennett is not capable of binding accounting services, because Bennett is not capable of interfacing external accounting support services into its system controller; Bennett's accounting features pre-exist and are pre-configured within its system controller.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections with respect to Bennett and allow the claims.

Serial Number: 09/390,954

Filing Date: September 7, 1999

Title: COMMUNICATION INTERFACE FOR PROVIDING ACCOUNTING SUPPORT FOR PRINT SERVICES

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney (513) 942-0224 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

F. DEVON TAYLOR ET AL.

By their Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.

P.O. Box 2938

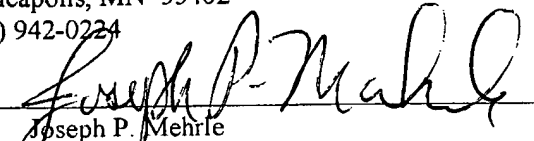
Minneapolis, MN 55402

(513) 942-0224

Date

1-05-05

By


Joseph P. Mehrle
Reg. No. 45,535

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 5 day of January, 2005.

Peter Rehlforn

Name


Signature